

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2a
July 19, 2012

Meeting

RIDE

Thursday, June 7, 2012 - 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attending: George Caruolo (chairman), L. Adrain, C. Callahan, Robert Carothers, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Betsy Shimberg

Absent: Carolina Bernal, Mat Santos

The meeting convened at 4:05 p.m.

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

Acceptance of Agenda

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education accept the day's agenda.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Carothers, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the minutes of the May 17, 2012 – Board of Regents Meeting

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Gist gave an update on the following:

RTTT Year 2 Quarter 3 Report

Commissioner Gist began by sharing with the BOR the RTTT Year 2 Quarter 3 Report and updating the Regents on the federal performance-monitoring visit by representatives from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) RTTT team, who visited Rhode Island to conduct an on-site review of R.I.'S RTTT progress to date.

Some of the highlights of the report included the fact that more than 4,300 educators have attended Study of the Standards training sessions to familiarize themselves with the Common Core State Standards and that eleven LEAs are engaged in intensive curriculum work with the Dana Center.

Throughout this quarter, RIDE has worked to finalize the building and development phases for the major data systems being built under Race to the Top.

RIDE also administered a mid-year survey to beginning teachers and building administrators regarding the new teacher-induction program, which indicated that more than 90 percent of respondents indicated that the Induction Coach increased beginning-teacher effectiveness and improved the ability of beginning teachers to meet the needs of students in their classrooms.

Charter School Renewals

Commissioner Gist reminded the BOR that at their June 21st Work Session she will be providing the Board with draft recommendations for discussion of the renewal of the next set of charter public schools (Academy for Career Exploration – [ACE], Beacon, Paul Cuffee, The International Charter School, and Kingston Hill Academy), whose charters expire June 2013.

She reminded the BOR that this group of schools was reviewed using a complete accountability process, including an analysis of each school's student performance, an

extensive document review, a three-day site visit, and an analysis of each school's organizational viability.

Beginning with this cohort, RIDE is now on track to make renewal decisions one year before the end of each school's charter term.

Ohio Meeting

Last week, a group from R.I. (Frank Flynn, Larry Purtill, Tim Duffy, Mary Ann Snider, and Commissioner Gist), along with teams from Providence and Woonsocket, attended a two-day labor-management conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, hosted by the U.S. Department of Education, where they were joined by school leaders and union leaders from 41 states.

This conference was designed to showcase work going on in many states focused on strengthening the teaching profession.

R.I. was honored to highlight the partnerships that RIDE has formed with both the National Education Association of R.I. and the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals on some of our most important initiatives, including educator evaluations, innovation powered by technology, induction and mentoring programs, and communication regarding the Race to the Top initiative.

District teams including union leaders and management from Providence and Woonsocket also participated in the conference, as did Tim Duffy, from the Rhode Island Association of School Committees.

Stocktaking Meeting in D.C.

Commissioner Gist reported that, also last week, she, along with Stephen Hourahan, Mary-Beth Fafard, Mary Ann Snider, Andrea Castañeda, Phyllis Lynch, and Lisa Foehr, attended Secretary Duncan's Stocktaking Meeting on Rhode Island's progress in implementing the Race to the Top work in Year 2.

She is pleased to report that the USDOE indicated that Rhode Island is leading in many areas, and other states are looking to what Rhode Island is doing in the areas of performance management and educator evaluation

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) representatives were very interested in hearing about how R.I. is implementing its EdStat performance management, about the Collaborative Learning for Outcomes process, how we can further support our districts on using Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), what USDOE can do to support us in our turnaround work, and what other types of supports the USDOE can provide us as we move into Year 3 implementation.

Central Falls Update

The Central Falls Support Team has been in place for approximately one month. During that time, the team has experienced success in achieving several of the key targets set following the issuance of the Commissioner's order on April 19th. These include:

Finance

- A fully reconciled 2012 budget is complete. Budget preparations continue for FY 2013 budget;
- Candidates have been identified to fill the Director of Finance and Payroll support positions;

Contract Negotiations

- Negotiations of the contract with the CF Teachers' Union continue. The Deputy Commissioner is leading those negotiations, and we are working closely with Superintendent Gallo.
- RIDE remains optimistic that we will be able to agree on a new, thinner contract that is in the best interest of the students of Central Falls.
- Negotiations on the contract with members of Council 94 (whose members include custodial and administrative support staff) are commencing.

Management, Program, and Instruction

- Successful completion of a monitoring visit from the USDOE took place in late May; compliant and effective use of School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds at the high school was noted; strategies for parental engagement were noted and recognized as exemplary.
- At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees on June 4th, the majority of laid-off teachers were returned to their current positions.
- Data on discipline at the high school (as presented to the Board of Trustees on May 22nd) reveals dramatic decreases in disciplinary infractions.

Total out-of-school suspensions from 2010-11, for example numbered 80; as of March 16th, the total number of out-of-school suspensions for 2011-12 was 9.

- There has been more than a 100-percent increase in the number of Advanced Placement courses offered at the high school.
- 89 percent of all Central Falls kindergarten students met or exceeded the benchmark on the Spring PALS assessment.

Data Hub – “Sneak Preview”

Commissioner Gist reported how excited she is that, the next day, RIDE and the Office of Higher Education would be previewing the Rhode Island DataHub, a new central resource that brings together student data on educational achievement, demographics, health, and student-risk factors across the entire education spectrum, from prekindergarten through college.

Budget Update

Commissioner Gist reported how incredibly pleased she is that the budget that the Finance Committee approved last Thursday retains Governor Chafee’s proposal to fully fund the Funding Formula for aid to education.

She is also very pleased that the budget includes resources for expanded bandwidth and the \$20-million technology bond, which will bring Internet wireless access and to every Rhode Island classroom. The budget also retains all the categoricals, including Governor Chafee’s recommendations for \$3 million to support career-and-technical education, \$1.4 million for early-childhood education, and an increase of \$1 million to help school districts meet high-cost special-education commitments.

Public Remarks

Heather Tow-Hick – Executive Director, Teach for America – Updated the BOR on the Teacher for America Program.

Julianna Golas – Adjunct Faculty at URI – Advocated for more time for students to have unstructured physical time.

Dr. William Strader – Professor of Early Childhood Education – Advocated for more time for students to have unstructured physical time.

Phyllis Penhallow – Professor of Early Childhood Education at URI – Advocated for more time for students to have unstructured physical time.

Olga Lerner – Parent – Advocated for more time for students to have unstructured physical time.

Peter Nero – Superintendent, Cranston School Department – Thanked Commissioner Gist for her support in recommending the three-year charter renewal for the NELs Charter High School and spoke in defense of NELs programs and its students.

Dennis Curran – Executive Director of the Construction Career Program, Cranston School Department – Spoke in support of the charter renewal of the NELs Charter High School.

Mike Traficante – Chairman of the NELs Charter High School Board of Directors - Spoke in support of the charter renewal of the NELs Charter High School.

Sasha Sidorkin – Dean of the Feinstein School of Education at Rhode Island College – Spoke in opposition to the cut score for the TESOL test.

Peter Yeager – National Director for Client Relations for the Praxis Program - Spoke in support of RIDE's process for recommendation of the certification tests and cut scores (they do not set the cut scores; it's RIDE's decision) as requirements for initial licensure for all prospective educators in Rhode Island.

Megan Fischer – Director of Communications, Providence Children's Museum – Advocated for more time for students to have unstructured physical time.

Brian Stanley – Director of Administration and Finance, Chariho School District – Spoke in support of the Chariho Regional School District's necessity for school construction projects.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Caruolo deferred Chairman's remarks.

Discussion Items

New Accountability System

Commissioner Gist began by sharing how very pleased she was that last week R.I. was one of only eight states to receive approval from the USDOE on its request for flexibility under the No Child Left Behind Law.

As a result of this, RIDE can now proceed to implement a new system for classification of schools and to intervene when schools are struggling.

RIDE designed the new accountability system over the past six months with input from the education field and from the public

Our new accountability system will allow RIDE to focus on achievement gaps; diagnose school performance by identifying specific shortcomings and achievements at each school; provide each school with the specific support or intervention needed to improve student achievement; and provide these schools with the ability to select interventions that respond to their context and their needs.

Under the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act, our previous accountability system set the same annual target for each school, regardless of its current level of achievement, and proscribes the same set of initiatives for all schools that miss annual targets.

Under the new system, the U.S. Department of Education has given us the flexibility to classify schools based on:

- **Proficiency:** How many students have attained proficiency or better?
- **Proficiency with Distinction:** How many students have attained distinction?
- **Gap-closing for all students:** Is the school serving all students, including those with disabilities and English Learners?
- **Progress:** Is the school approaching its 2017 targets?
- **Growth (K-8):** Are all students making progress?
- **Improvement (high schools):** Is the school improving annually?
- **Graduation (high schools):** Have schools met their graduation-rate targets?

Over the next several weeks, RIDE will complete the 2012 School Classifications under the new system. RIDE will be working with each identified district to answer any questions regarding the new classifications process and intervening as necessary with those districts that are being identified as struggling and in need of assistance.

Deputy Commissioner Abbott addressed questions from the BOR regarding how long the waiver will last, the thinking behind combining the subgroups of ELLs and IEPs, the increase in the number of schools that are being identified under the new system, what type of financial resources will be available to the schools being identified, and the level of human capital support RIDE will be able to provide.

Approval Items

a. Approval of the Certification Redesign – New Testing Requirements

Chairman Caruolo shared how he was not pleased with the fact that RIDE has not listened to any of the concern or opinions voiced by the Rhode Island College faculty regarding the passing score for the TESOL certification test. After a lengthy discussion on the TESOL cut score, Regents Guida and Adrain announced that they had to depart the meeting early, so Chairman Caruolo asked that the approval of the Testing Requirements be placed on hold, and he asked for a motion to approve the other items on the agenda.

b. Renewal of the Charter of the New England Laborers’/Cranston Public Schools Career and Construction Academy Charter School

On a motion duly made by Regent Forbes and seconded by Regent Carothers, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education renews the Charter of the New England Laborers’ /Cranston Public Schools Career and

Construction Academy Charter School for a three (3) year term, to operate in accordance with the renewed Charter from the 2012-13 school year to the 2014-15 school year, as presented.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 1 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida;

NAYS: B. Shimberg

c. Necessity for School Construction Projects

- Chariho Regional School District

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Adrain, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Chariho School District's necessity for school construction projects totaling \$2,441,500 pursuant to 16-7-41., as presented.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 member voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg,

NAYS: 0

- Middletown School Department

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Middletown School Department's necessity for school construction projects totaling \$1,766,162 pursuant to 16-7-41, as presented.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg,

NAYS: 0

- Portsmouth School Department

On a motion duly made by Regent Callahan and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Middletown School Department's necessity for school construction projects totaling \$2,331,550 pursuant to 16-7-41, as presented.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

d. Approval of BOR Appeals Committee Recommendations

E. Doe v. East Providence School Department

On a motion duly made by Regent Forbes and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

VOTED: That in the matter of E. Doe v. the East Providence School Department, it is the recommendation of the BOR Appeals Committee that the Decision of the Commissioner be remanded to the Commissioner for further findings, as presented.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Regents Guida and Adrain departed at 5:30 p.m.

A. Doe v. Lincoln School Department

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Callahan, it was

VOTED: That in the matter of A. Doe v. the Lincoln School Department, the Decision of the Commissioner is affirmed, as

presented.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Regent Shimberg suggested moving to accept the other recommended certification tests and cut scores and table the TESOL testing requirements and cut scores until the June 21st Work Session.

On a motion duly made by Regent Forbes and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the recommended certification testing and passing scores as a requirement for initial licensure for all prospective educators in Rhode Island, except for the TESOL test and cut score.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

On a motion duly made by Regent Carothers and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.